AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

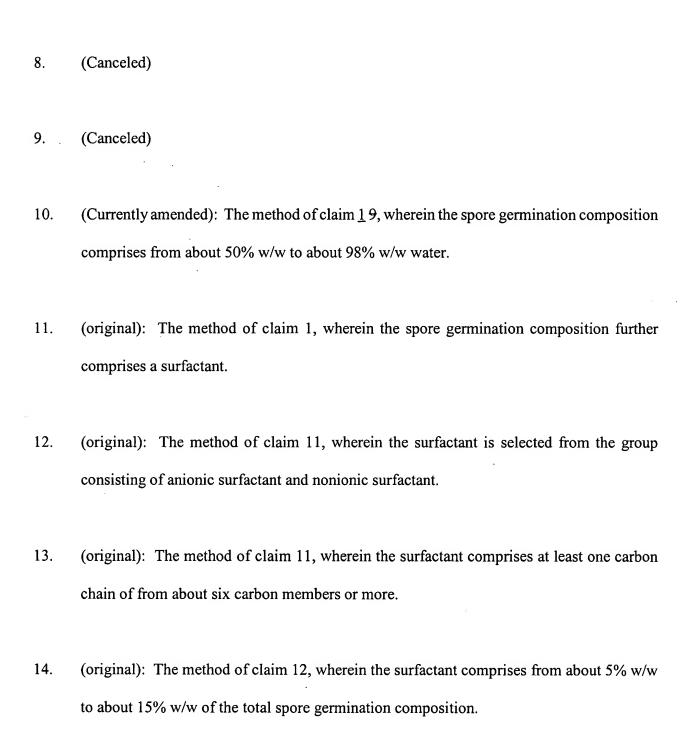
1. (Currently amended): A method for <u>rapidly</u> decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:

contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising an effective amount of dipicolinic acid and an effective amount of calcium ions effective to cause rapid germination of the spores; and,

concurrently, applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. The method of claim † 22, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.
- 5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 4, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Currently amended): The method of claim $\underline{1}$ 6, wherein the spore germination composition

comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.



13.	(original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises
	enzymes.
1.6	
16.	(original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a
	peroxygen compound.
17.	(Canceled)
18.	(Canceled)
19.	(Canceled)
20.	(Canceled)
20.	(Canceled)
21.	(Canceled)
22.	(New) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from
	about 10 mM to about 150 mM dipicolinic acid.
23.	(New) The method of claim 4, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from
	about 60 mM to about 80 mM dipicolinic acid.